(*b*) The tálukas were redistributed as under :—

Eastern Division.	Western Division.
1. Kalyán.	1. Sálsette.
2. Sháhápur.	2. Bassein.
3. Mokháda (exclusive of the Taláhsri Mahál)	3 Máhim.
4. Bhiwndi.	4. Dáhánu.
5. Váda.	5. Umbargaon Petha.
6. Murbád.	6. Taláhsri Mahál.

22. The benefits obtained by this arrangement are the equalization of the areas of forests in the two divisions and greater facility of inspection. On the 30th June 1893, therefore, the forest area of the two divisions stood thus:—

Division.	Reserved Forest.		Protected Forest.		Total.	
	Sq. m	a.	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.
East Thána...	352	569	325	359	678	288
West Thána	314	173	273	614	588	147
Total ...	667	102	599	333	1,266	435

(ii). FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

23. Forest settlement has been in progress with the following results in each of the forest divisions in which Forest Settlement Officers have been at work.

West Thána.

24. Considerable progress was made in the settlement of the forests of Máhim, Dáhánu and Umbargaon, *i.e.* in the ranges in which the work had yet to be done. The scheme which had been prepared by Mr. Owen, Forest Settlement Officer, but not completed by him before his departure on leave, was, during the year under review, revised and reported on by his successor Mr. McIver after personal inspection of the forests, followed by discussions with the Collector and the Divisional Forest Officer, but the final orders of Government had not been obtained before the close of the year.

25. The Forest Settlement Officer also worked in the Dáhánu and Umbargaon ranges during the year, and the forests of 19 villages in the former were settled, and the proposals are awaiting sanction of Government. If Mr. McIver's work had not unfortunately been interrupted owing to his failing health, on account of which he was obliged to take furlough on medical certificate at the commencement of April, he would have been able to show a much larger amount of work.

26. It is satisfactory to note, however, that a distinct advance has been made in the settlement of the forests of this division, and that really all that now remains to be done could probably be effected in one full season's successful work.

East Thána.

27. Government in their Resolution No. 9848, dated 15th December 1892, appointed Mr. Orr, I. C. S., as Forest Demarcation and Settlement Officer of the tálukas of Kalyán, Bhiwndi, Murbád and Sháhápur, including Mokháda of the Thána District and Karjat and Khálápur of the Kolába District.

28. From 5th January, the date of taking over charge, to 29th February 1893 he was chiefly engaged in the Kolába District of the Southern Circle, and did not commence work in the East Thána Division until the 1st March. During the last three months of the field season, however, he contrived to inspect minutely and finally report on all the forests in 25 villages of the Murbád Táluka aggregating 16 square miles. His order in respect to the right to tâhâl granted to the people in these villages has given rise to an appeal which

was preferred and decided after the close of the year. In his decision the Collector of Thána has upset the Forest Settlement Officer's award on the following grounds:—

"In this appeal the procedure of the Forest Settlement Officer has left me only one thing to do. He has held 25 separate and regular inquiries under Chapter I of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, upon certain rights claimed, and has then lumped the whole of them into a single 26th case upon the general right (as he considers it) to loppings of inferior trees for ash manure, which he apparently considers to be an incident of the tenure of rice land in the 25 villages concerned (though he does not say so in terms). No procedure could be more irregular or inconvenient, and one result of it has been that his proceedings do not include any single one of the particulars to be recorded under Section 12 of Indian Forest Act.

"Now it is certainly practicable in every village of the 25 to obtain a very complete record of the names and other details required by that section.

"And it is evidently very necessary that this should be done.

"I shall then know something of what is before me to decide upon.

"Mr. Orr's whole proceedings dated 6th May and 8th and 19th June, in respect of the combined villages, are cancelled, and he is directed to complete the separate inquiry in each of the 25 villages already begun, and to record the particulars required by Section 12.

"I cannot now pass any order upon his law as a separate matter, but I am inclined to think it possible that when he has completed the records, he will have found some cause for changing his opinion as to the privileges claimed.

"Meanwhile there is now no decision in force upon those claims."

Surat.

29. In this division nothing remains to be done, as forest settlement may be considered as having been completed for all practical purposes.

Panch Mahals.

30. The settlement of the whole of this district is approaching completion. The Forest Settlement Officer, Mr. Maconochie, I.C.S., having finished the settlement inquiries under Section 7 of the Indian Forest Act in regard of the remaining protected forest areas of Dohad and Jhálod, notified as proposed reserves on the 30th June 1891 in accordance with Government Resolution No. 2974, dated 30th April 1891, has submitted during the year a draft notification under Section 19 to Government for publication.

31. The following statement will show the tálukas in which forest settlement and demarcation has been completed and in which such work is still to be done:—

No.	Division.	Tálukas in which Forest Settlement and Demarcation has been completed.	Tálukas in which Forest Settlement and Demarcation is still to be completed.	Remarks.
1	East Thána ...	Kalyán, Bhiwndi, Mokháda.	Murbád, Sháhápur .	Work in progress.
2	West Thána ...	Bassein, Sálsette, Váda.	Dáhánu, Máhim, Umbargaon.	Work in progress; awaiting final orders of Government.
3	Surat	Mándvi, Bulsár, Párdi, Chikhli, Bárdoli.	.....	.....
4	Panch Mahals .	Godhra, Kálol, Hálol.	Dohad, Jhálod ...	Awaiting final orders of Government.

32. The forest area over which the proceedings of the several Settlement officers extended during the year is exhibited below;—

No.	Division.	Area.		Remarks.
		Sq. m.	a.	
1	East Thána	143¼	0	Murbád Táluka.
2	West Thána	141	348	Máhim (121 square miles 438 acres); Dáhánu (19 square miles 550 acres).
3	Surat	0	229	
4	Panch Mahál	137	0	Dohad (73 square miles), Jhálod (42 square miles), and 22 square miles in Kálol.

33. Considerable advancement has been made and a large amount has been expended on the acquisition of occupied lands coming within the sanctioned forest boundaries by payment of money compensation, as will be seen from the following table :—

No.	Division.	Area acquired.		Price paid.			Rate per acre.			Remarks.
		A.	g.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	
1	East Thána	0	36½	48	12	0	54	0	0	Rs. 48-12-0 paid for 36½ gunthas in the village of Murhé in Bhiwndi, Rs. 28,056-4-3 paid for 4,314 acres 13½ gunthas of land on the Tánsa Lake catchment area.
		4,314	13½	28,056	4	3	6	8	0	
2	Panch Mahals	101	0	435	6	0	4	5	0	
	Total ...	4,416	10	28,540	6	3	.....			

With the exception of 101 acres and 36½ gunthas all the land on the Tánsa catchment area has been purchased during the year, and the special officer who was appointed for this purpose under Government Resolution No. 3120, dated 31st March 1892, was relieved of his duties on the 1st April 1893. At first sight, it would appear that the former occupants of this land have been very liberally treated, having received Rs. 6-8-2 per acre. But, in addition to buying the occupancy of proprietary rights over the land, compensation for trees and for removing their houses had to be given in some cases. The following details will show how the amount of Rs. 28,056 4-3 was distributed :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(*a*) Purchase of 4,314 acres and 13½ gunthas assessed at Rs. 1,129-2-6	23,802	10	5
(*b*) Purchase of 374 trees	663	8	0
(*c*) Compensation for removing 159 houses ...	2,655	8	0
(*d*) Extra payment at 15 per cent.	934	9	10
Total.	28,056	4	3

34. The following statement shows the cost of Forest Settlement Officers and their establishments for the several divisions:—

Division.	Forest Settlement Officers.						Office Establishments.						Contingencies.			Total.		
	Pay.			Travelling allowance.			Pay.			Travelling allowance.								
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
East Thána	1,919	10	9	450	0	0	83	11	2	26	0	8	881	11	2	3,361	1	9
West Thána	6,985	10	0	2,127	3	3	2,841	6	4	901	12	10	380	15	0	13,236	15	5
Surat	.....			.....			*3,667	8	3	.....			.....			3,667	8	3
Panch Mahals ...	.....			.....			.....			.....			71	6	6	71	6	6
Total ...	8,905	4	9	2,577	3	3	6,592	9	9	927	13	6	1,334	0	8	20,336	15	11

*On account of pay and other charges of the office and district establishments of the Dángs Demarcation Officer.

35. The expenditure incurred upon the formation and constitution of reserved and protected forests during the year has amounted to Rs. 54,404-10-6 :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Salaries and travelling allowances of Forest Settlement Officers not charged to forests ...	11,482	8	0
(2) Salaries and travelling allowances of establishments employed under Forest Settlement Officers and charged in the forest accounts, and the contingent expenditure of the latter	8,854	7	11
(3) Demarcation of forest boundaries upon the ground by the construction of special forest boundary marks...	5,527	4	4
(4) Compensation for land and rights	28,540	6	3
Total....	54,404	10	6

36. The work actually effected during the year, and represented by the expenditure detailed above, comprises—

(*a*) The settlement of 364 square miles at a cost of Rs. 55-14-0 per square mile;

(*b*) The demarcation of 625½ miles of forest boundary at Rs. 8-13-5 per mile, and

(*c*) The purchase of 4,416¼ acres of land for forest reservation at Rs. 6-7-4 per acre.

(iii). DEMARCATION.

37. Prior to the introduction of the fourth edition of the Forest Department Code, demarcation and settlement operations used to be commented on in the administration reports under one heading; but as such operations are now required to be recorded separately, it will be sufficient to mention here, in order to avoid repetition, that demarcation was carried on simultaneously with settlement in the lands referred to in paragraphs 31 and 32.

38. From the following statement it will be noticed that the undemarcated area in this Circle is comparatively small, and, as Government has been pleased to appoint an Assistant Demarcation Officer in Thána, there is every reason to believe that the work will be pushed forward and completed by the close of the year 1893-94 :—

No.	Division.	Area demarcated.	Area undemarcated.	Total Forest area of the Division.
		Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.
1	East Thána	207 330	379 360	587 50
2	West Thána	427 538	251 487	679 385
3	Surat	68 382	.....	68 382
4	Dángs	678 320	.....	678 320
5	Panch Máháls	333 455	.....	333 455
		1,716 105	631 207	2,347 312

39. In the demarcation of forest reservations in the Dángs nothing remains to be done. The cairns erected by the Forest Demarcation Officer, 1,196 in number, were formally taken over by the Forest Department, but this was done conditionally, as it was found that some corrections will have to be made hereafter on account of the surveyors or villagers having (wilfully or not it is difficult to prove) tampered with the positions of some of the cairns. It is not easy to discover such mistakes, if mistakes they are, in a rough country; but, on their being found out, steps will be taken to set them right.

40. The Dáng reserves are now demarcated by 1,196 well-built stone cairns, having cost Rs. 3,524, or Rs. 3 each. Considering the difficulty of procuring labour in this unhealthy and secluded locality the expenditure is very reasonable.